

Four-goal Gray inspires Leytonstone win

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WAND. 2 : LEYTONSTONE 5

GRAY inspired Leytonstone to a great win at Wycombe today. His four goals completely sank the home side, whose revival has been short-lived.

Wycombe Wanderers: Bunting; Lewis, Pullin; Beek, Roystone, Gale; Worley, Gallacher. Thomas, Horseman, Hodges.

Leytonstone: Griffin; Wilkinson, Wood; Hill, Allen, Clark; Yeend, Gray, Hearne, Strover, Bristow.

Referee: K. Markham (Pyford).

Quick off the mark, Leytonstone threatened in the first few seconds when Gray tested Bunting, but Wycombe soon swept back and goalkeeper Griffin did well to pull down an accurate centre by Worley.

Then Wycombe's 18-year-old newcomer, Gallacher hooked the ball just wide after a good run by Hodges and followed it a little later with another fine shot which almost deceived Griffin.

The home forwards moved with purpose and poise in several slick advances and it was no more than they deserved when after 13 minutes GALE put them ahead with a tremendous 30-yard drive.

With Worley and Gallacher in lively mood on the right wing, Wycombe continued to give the visitors defence plenty to think about and another well-placed header by Horseman was smartly saved by Griffin.

Then a bad defensive error half an hour after the start allowed Leytonstone to equalise. Seizing on a through pass, the unmarked GRAY dribbled coolly round Bunting before transferring the ball to an empty net.

Two minutes later Wycombe were awarded a penalty when a back handled on the goal-line, but Thomas shot wide from the spot kick.

Shortly before half-time Wycombe had a narrow escape when Lewis headed off the goal-line from Hearne.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Leytonstone 1.

There was another shock for Wycombe a few minutes after the restart when centre forward HEARNE sent in a shot which bounced over goalkeeper Bunting's shoulder into the net.

Fifteen minutes after the resumption GRAY increased their lead with a shot which appeared to be deflected into the goal by Roystone.

Ten minutes later GRAY again took the home defence by surprise with a flashing shot from 25 yards out to score Leytonstone's fourth.

HIS FOURTH

Horseman broke through on his own to reduce the lead for Wycombe but almost immediately the busy GRAY dashed away again to make it 5-2 for Leytonstone.

Wycombe still had more of the play territorially, often swarming round the visitors' goal but the Leytonstone backs covered well and Wycombe rarely looked like scoring.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2
LEYTONSTONE 5

WYCOMBE HAD NO ANSWER

Wycombe 2 Leytonstone 5

L EYTONSTONE'S lively, young forwards battered Wycombe to defeat in a 28-minute second half spell after an evenly fought first half.

The Wycombe backs had no answer to the quick-fire marksmanship of the Leytonstone danger man, inside-right Ken Gray who scored four.

For Wycombe, the game revealed the shortcomings of their 4-2-4 tactics. After a confident start, and an early goal by left-half Gale, they lost the initiative when a defensive error after half an hour allowed Gray to equalise. And two minutes later Thomas missed a Wycombe penalty for hands.

More defensive blunders sent Wycombe sliding to disaster in the second half. Bunting, who had an unhappy day in the home goal, saw a shot from Hearne bounce over his shoulder to put Leytonstone ahead. Then the busy Gray slammed home two more before Horseman, liveliest of a disappointing home forward line, pulled one back with a solo effort. But almost immediately Gray dashed away to score a fifth.